

Independent Review Board

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2003

Attendance

Board Members: Chair Dr. Jay Gold; Jerry Popowski; and Dr. David Zimmerman. Absent: Vice-Chair Dr. Paul Millea and Eileen Mallow.

Bureau of Health Information Staff: John Chapin, Director; Judith Nugent, Chief, Person-Level Data and Analysis Section; Wen-Jan Tuan; Al Nettleton; Richard Miller; Ellen Utter; and David Woldseth.

Others Present: Liz Schumacher, Wisconsin Medical Society.

Call to Order

At 10:02 a.m., lacking quorum, Dr. Jay Gold requested that the presentation on Physician Office Visit (POV) data begin and continue until such time as quorum could be achieved. At that time, the meeting would be called to order.

Physician Office Visit (POV) data project presentation

Before beginning the presentation, Judith Nugent announced that the POV data CDs would be cut that afternoon, and a notice would be sent to those who receive ambulatory and emergency department data. This will introduce them to the POV data, which will be provided at no cost if the customer signs the data use agreement. Second, she announced that this talk would be presented again at the December 2, 2003, meeting of the Board on Health Care Information. Therefore, any changes or suggestions that the IRB offered would be appreciated.

Ms. Nugent then presented a brief history and overview of the POV project. 1987 Wisconsin Act 399 created the Office of Health Care Information (OHCI) and authorized data collection from physicians. 1997 Wisconsin Act 231 further expanded the collection of data and redesigned OHCI. In 2000, administrative rules were crafted for POV data collection. Several changes occurred between what was originally proposed and what the final program required. The Board on Health Care Information approved a phase-in plan for data submission that varied by submitter.

Call to order (continued) and Minutes of the September 26, 2003 meeting

At 10:28 a.m., Dr. David Zimmerman arrived, and quorum was met. As chair, Dr. Gold interrupted the POV presentation to conduct business that required quorum. Dr. Gold referred Board members to the minutes of the September 26, 2003, meeting. He called upon Dr. Zimmerman, who had previously spoken to Dr. Gold about making a clarification to the minutes. In the "Available Risk Adjustment Strategies" section, the first sentence of the third paragraph did not completely convey the discussion at the previous meeting. Therefore, Dr. Zimmerman proposed three changes:

- The words "agreed with Mr. Moody" were replaced by "stated";
- The words "formal, standardized" were added before "risk adjustment"; and
- The words "but rather should pursue risk adjustment on a case-by-case basis" were added at the end of the sentence.

Mr. Popowski seconded the proposed amendments to the minutes. Mr. Popowski made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded it. The motion carried.

John Chapin brought up the need for IRB to pass a more formalized policy statement at some future time that would reflect this position. While the minutes now reflect the IRB position more accurately, a resolution that conveys this sentiment may be in order. Dr. Gold asked Dr. Zimmerman and David Woldseth to work together on drafting that policy statement for the next Board meeting. Both agreed to do so.

Physician Office Visit (POV) data project presentation (continued)

Ms. Nugent then continued her presentation on the background and history of the project. She described the two data submission phases more fully and discussed data collection procedures. She also talked about plans for data release. At Dr. Gold's request, she will add the new sentence on risk adjustment from the minutes to the Power Point slides before making the presentation to the Board on Health Care Information. This will be in lieu of a formal policy statement since BHCI next meets before IRB can approve such a statement. Ms. Nugent concluded by mentioning other recent POV data activities and discussing preliminary investigations into uses of the data.

Ms. Nugent then asked Wen-Jan Tuan to talk about what the released data showed. An important caveat to the POV data is that it does not represent the universe of all physicians in Wisconsin or all services delivered by physicians. The data submitters changed slightly between the first and second quarters of 2003 due to some variation in system changes brought on by HIPAA compliance. The time of year makes a difference in the data. For example, influenza vaccinations were the top reason for physician visits in one period but not even in the top ten reasons for the next period. Acute pharyngitis moved from tenth to fifth most common reason for physician visits between the two periods. Mr. Tuan also provided information on procedures and payer categories. To illustrate points about what the data can do, he presented three case studies: health care management, Type II diabetes, and influenza. Throughout the presentation, IRB members suggested changes to strengthen the presentation for the BHCI.

Ms. Nugent asked the IRB how they felt about the presentation, and what should be changed before December 2. Dr. Gold liked the presentation and thought it brought people up-to-date. He wondered if depicting data in rates or per capita might help. Without knowing the population, he speculated it could be hard to produce rates. Dr. Zimmerman agreed it could be a problem since it is not clear what could or should be used as the denominator for the frequencies. Dr. Zimmerman also felt a stronger caveat needed to be attached to let people know that the data is not representative of all visits to physicians at this time.

POV data business discussion

Dr. Gold asked if it was clear when the Department would make a decision regarding the future of POV data. Mr. Chapin answered that it was not yet clear. Mr. Chapin reminded the IRB that the released data did not include physician identifiers since it had been the consensus of the group not to include them. The IRB agreed that was their consensus at this time, and they asked that the consensus be reflected in the minutes.

At the previous meeting, Mark Moody had indicated there might not be a method or the resources available to do risk adjustment of the data. Dr. Gold reminded the IRB about this. The IRB had requested a literature search, but the Bureau has been unable to complete it due to lack of staff resources. The Bureau has also been turning many data collection activities over to the Wisconsin Hospital Association, an activity which will now carry over into February and March, 2004, rather than end in December. This transition activity has also eliminated staff time needed for the research.

Dr. Gold asked if Mr. Moody understood these problems and whether he would view the IRB delay in response negatively. Mr. Chapin said that he thought Mr. Moody understood the issues, but he will

brief him to make certain he does. Dr. Gold asked that the minutes reflect that the IRB is considering what Mr. Moody said, so he will be aware that these issues are on the table and will remain there until addressed.

Liz Schumacher from the Wisconsin Medical Society asked that her organization be allowed to play a role in the development of policies regarding POV data. One of the Society's members had a concern, and WMS wants to protect data confidentiality as one of its goals.

Dr. Zimmerman asked who should be looking at POV data. He also asked if there were any criteria under which the case study examples were chosen. Ms. Nugent volunteered to make this POV presentation to the Wisconsin Medical Society if they chose to invite her to do so. Jerry Popowski talked about needing to look at physician identifiers in the future.

Potential items for upcoming IRB meeting

- Literature search on risk adjustment strategies
- Update on status of POV initiative
- Report on Bureau of Health Information staff status

Next IRB meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2004, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the State Office Building, One West Wilson Street, Conference Room 372, Madison, Wisconsin.

Adjournment

Dr. Gold adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.